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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Reported Production of Fertilizer at Saue, Estonian
SSR/Speculation on Purpose of Affiliated Laboratory

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1. "In the Harju raion of the Estonian SSR, close to the railway station of Saue, there is a factory producing 'bacterial fertilizer' for the sovkhozes and kolkhozes. The fertilizers are a mixture of nitrogen and 'azotogen' with soil. The product is packed in bottles. These fertilizers are mixed with seed grain during sowing. They are supposed to introduce into the soil certain bacteria which have been generated in the bottles.
2. "The factory is a peculiar combination of a large laboratory and a small factory. The factory is a barracks near the railway station with 15 workers and employees. Its manager is an Estonian, Voldemar Loom. The workers are also Estonians. The factory started production in 1950 when its output was 10 tons yearly. In 1953 the output was 60 tons. The enterprise surrounded by a fence with barbed wire. The workers have to show passes at the entrance.
3. "The laboratory attached to the factory is also a barracklike structure. It is in the same enclosure but separated from the factory by another fence. The whole enclosure is guarded by an MVD detachment. The laboratory has 45 employees who are Soviets and who live in barracks nearby. At the entrance to the laboratory area they must produce a second special pass. The Estonian workers of the factory have no idea what is going on at the laboratory. The two establishments have really nothing in common although they are supposed to be one enterprise. The laboratory workers do not associate with the local population. It is known, however, that some of them use gas masks and rubber gloves while working. No Estonian has ever been admitted to the laboratory.

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4. The laboratory puts out a certain product or products, the nature of which is unknown to the Estonian employees of the enterprise. About once every fortnight a military truck arrives to fetch the output. The output is packed in zinc boxes and packed in turn in wooden boxes.
5. "From time to time strangers arrive in cars and stay at the laboratory for several days. To Estonian enquiries concerning these strangers the laboratory workers reply that they are members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences who have come to give instruction on the production of bacterial fertilizers."

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